

Towing Large Loads Infographic

Safe Towing Tips

Driving with another set of wheels and more weight creates a new driving experience. Overlooking small details can result in a less-than-pleasant drive, and in some situations could put you at risk of an accident and other dangers. We talked with our Equal-i-zer® hitch engineers and put together a list of safe towing tips so you can have peace of mind and enjoy your journey!

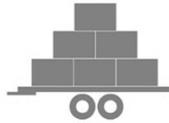
Towing Capacity

Be aware of your total trailer weight capacity and the weight ratings of the hitch ball, hitch, receiver, and towing vehicle. Ensure the vehicle you are towing with is rated to tow your load. Knowing these ratings and sticking to them will help protect both you and your vehicle.



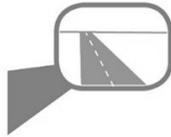
Load Properly

Make sure the weight of your load is distributed appropriately. Load your trailer in a way that it is balanced from side-to-side. 60% of the weight should be towards the front, with the tongue weight typically within 10-15%. Too much tongue weight could overload the hitch, not enough could lead to greater trailer sway.



Mirrors

Due to the increased blind spots that come with towing a larger load, your mirrors should always be repositioned when you're towing. If possible, put extended side-view mirrors on your towing vehicle, especially if your rear-view vision is entirely obstructed.



Hitch Set-Up

Take the time to get your Equal-i-zer hitch set-up correctly. By ensuring 1.) your brackets are placed correctly, 2.) your angle set bolt is tight, 3.) your weight distribution is set up properly, and 4.) your hitch ball is in the right position - you will get optimal sway control and weight distribution from your hitch.



Keep Vehicle Cool

Extra weight means your vehicle has to work a bit harder, which can lead to extra heat under the hood and extra stress on your transmission. Consider a transmission cooler, which will reduce the temperature of the oil circulating through the transmission. Installing an additional cooling fan can also help keep the temperatures down.



Brakes

Functioning brakes are a must for a safe towing experience. For trailers with electric brakes, make sure you have a high quality properly adjusted trailer brake controller for the tow vehicle. Before leaving, always check that the emergency break-away brake cable is connected to the tow vehicle.



Make Driving Adjustments

Towing a heavy load will impact the reaction time of your vehicle. It is important that you slow down your speed and make appropriate adjustments depending on your load and conditions. Some things to consider include:

- Give more stopping distance
- Give more accelerating/merging distance
- Beware of larger blind spots
- Watch and pay attention to the tow vehicle gauges and systems
- Take wider and slower turns
- Use the transmission/engine to maintain speed downhill to not burn up the brakes



Tires

Before leaving, check the pressure in your tires-both on your towing vehicle, as well as on your trailer. Over or underinflated tires create more sway. Also, don't forget your spares!



Source: <https://www.equalizerhitch.com>